

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01  
SSC-01 /052 W  
-----100844Z 120863 /17

R 071445Z JAN 77

FM AMCONSUL STUTTGART  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3297  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL BREMEN  
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF  
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT  
AMCONSUL HAMBURG  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
USMISSION USBERLIN

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C O R R E C T E C C O P Y ADD EO, TAGAS, SUBJ

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT GW

SUBJ: GENSCHER TAKES ON SPD AT BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG EPIPHANY  
MEETING

1. SUMMARY. FREE DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHAIRMAN GENSCHER TOOK POT SHOTS AT BOTH BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG AND NATIONAL SPD IN FEATURED SPEECH IN TRADITIONAL THREE KINGS' MEETING IN STUTTGART ON JANUARY 6. FRENCH LIBERAL JEAN DURIEUX FAILED TO LIVE UP TO ADVANCE BILLING IN WHAT WAS TO HAVE BEEN MAJOR SPEECH. MEETING THAT WAS LONG ON RHETORIC AND SHORT ON SUBSTANCE RE-ELECTED ENTIRE FDP LEADERSHIP TEAM INCLUDING LAND CHAIRMAN MARTIN BANGEMANN. PARTY MEETING CONSIDERED DULLEST AND MOST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNINSPIRING IN RECENT YEARS. END SUMMARY.

2. SPEAKING AT TRADITIONAL EPIPHANY MEETING OF BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG FDP IN STUTTGART ON JANUARY 6, FEDERAL FOREIGN MINISTER AND FDP NATIONAL CHAIRMAN HANS-DIETRICH GENSCHER, IN TRYING TO DEPICT FDP AS INDEPENDENT FORCE, NOT ONLY ATTACHED CDU, BUT ALSO WARNED BONN COALITION PARTNER SPD

AGAINST "FORCES IN SPD THAT WANT TO REDUCE FDP INFLUENCE IN COALITION". LIBERALS WERE NOT JUST A MEANS TO HELP SPD TO GET A MAJORITY WITH WHICH IT COULD MAKE SOCIALISTIC POLITICS. IN COMMENTS NOT IN HIS PREPARED REMARKS, GENSCHER ATTACHED BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG SPD CHAIRMAN DR. ERHARD EPPLER ESPECIALLY STRONGLY, SAYING EPPLER WAS BEST GUARANTEE THAT SPD WOULD NOT REACH MAJORITY IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG, AND THAT EPPLER HAD BEEN GREATEST CDU ASSET IN RECENT ELECTIONS.

3. DESPITE SOMEWHAT STRIDENT TONE AGAINST SPD, GENSCHER, NEVERTHELESS, DEFENDED COALITION WITH SPD ON FEDERAL LEVEL. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT COALITIONS WITH CDU ON LAND LEVELS COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED A FEDERAL SIGNAL WHICH IS FREQUENT MESSAGE DELIVERED AT FDP LAND CONVENTIONS IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG.

4. GENSCHER WARNED AGAINST POPULAR FRONT (VOLKSFRONT-BUENDNISSE) AND SO-CALLED EURO-COMMUNISM WITH WHICH COMMUNISTS TRIED TO SNEAK IN THE BACK DOOR. THIS WAS MORE DANGEROUS THAN "OBVIOUS BYZANTINISM OF GERMAN COMMUNISTS WHO OPENED UMBRELLA IN BRIGHT SUNSHINE ONLY BECAUSE OF RAIN IN MOSCOW."

5. GENSCHER PLACED MOST OF HIS FOREIGN POLICY EMPHASIS IN THE EUROPEAN CONTEXT. HIS PREPARED REMARKS CONTAINED NO SPECIFIC MENTION OF THE US WHICH CAME ONLY WHEN HE MADE THE FAMILIAR COMMENT ABOUT BERLIN BEING THE "PROOF STONE" OF DETENTE.

6. FOR FIRST TIME IN OVER 100-YEAR HISTORY OF EPIPHANY MEETINGS, A FOREIGN POLITICIAN SPOKE AT PUBLIC MEETING: THE CHAIR- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MAN OF THE LIBERAL FACTION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, FRENCHMAN JEAN DURIEUX. IN ANNOUNCING A COMMON ELECTION PLATFORM OF THE LIBERAL PARTIES OF EUROPE FOR THE DIRECT ELECTION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN 1978, HE FAILED TO GENERATE MUCH MORE THAN A POLITE RESPONSE. DURIEUX'S PRESENCE AT THE CONVENTION HAD BEEN BILLED IN ADVANCE AS A RATHER SIGNIFICANT EVENT.

7. ELECTION OF NEW LAND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAD BEEN PRECEDED BY HEATED DISCUSSION IN RECENT WEEKS. ONLY AFTER PROMISING NOT TO RUN AGAIN IN 1979 WAS DR. MARTIN BANGEMANN REELECTED LAND CHAIRMAN, GETTING ONLY 262 VOTES WITH 111 AGAINST HIM AND 24 ABSTENTIONS. STATE SECRETARY IN FEDERAL AGRICULTURE MINISTRY GEORG GALLUS, KLAUS ROESCH AND HINRICH ENDERLEIN WERE ALL REELECTED, BUT ALL WITH CONSIDERABLY FEWER VOTES THAN TWO YEARS AGO. SURPRISE CANDIDACY FOR ONE OF THE DEPUTY CHAIRMEN POSITIONS BY BUNDESTAG DEPUTY AND STUTTGART KREIS CHAIRMAN FRIEDRICH HOELSCHER FAILED. HOELSCHER CONSIDERED TO BELONG TO THE LEFT WING OF THE FDP. 31-YEAR OLD CHAIRMAN OF

9-MAN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG LANDTAG FACTION DR. JUERGEN MORLOK  
IS EXPECTED TO SUCCEED BANGEMANN AS LAND CHAIRMAN IN 1979,  
SINCE PREVIOUS CONVENTION PASSED RESOLUTION THAT A LAND POLI-  
TICIAN SHOULD HEAD LAND ORGANIZATION BEFORE ANOTHER LANDTAG  
ELECTION.

COMMENT: MANY MEDIA AND OTHER OBSERVERS, INCLUDING SOME FDP  
OFFICIALS, CONSIDER THE JANUARY 5-6 SESSION THE DULLEST AND  
MOST UNINSPIRING THREE KINGS MEETING EVER HELD AND DOUBT WHE-  
THER THE BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG FDP HAS THE LEADERSHIP RESOURCES  
TO LIFT THE PARTY OUT OF THE DOLDRUMS. IT IS A STUDY IN CON-  
TRASTS FOR THE BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG FDP, WHICH NEVER FAILS TO  
TROT OUT THE OLD TIME LIBERALS FOR PUBLIC HOMAGE, TO HAVE TO  
TURN TO THE 31-YEAR OLD JUERGEN MORLOK AS ITS NEXT LIKELY  
LEADER. WHILE MORLOK MAY HAVE A BRIGHT FUTURE, HE HAS NOT  
YET HAD TIME TO DEMONSTRATE THAT HE IS A MAN OF PROVEN ABIL-  
ITY. THE ELECTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD (VORSTAND) PROVED  
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OR SETTLED NOTHING EXCEPT, PERHAPS, THAT ALL THOSE REELECTED  
HAD LOST SUPPORT IN THE PARTY. THE VORSTAND WAS LEFT, AS  
BEFORE, WITH ONE BANGEMANN FRIEND (ROESCH), ONE ENEMY (ENDER-  
LEIN), AND A THIRD (GALLUS) WHO IS NOT HEAVILY INVOLVED IN  
THE GRUBBINESS OF POLITICS ON THE LAND LEVEL. THIS CAN ONLY  
MEAN THAT THE PERSONAL CONFRONTATIONS CHARACTERISTIC OF THE  
BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG FDP IN RECENT YEARS ARE LIKELY TO CON-  
TINUE FOR AT LEAST THE NEXT TWO. THE INTENSITY OF THE BICK-  
ERING MAY BE REDUCED, HOWEVER, AS BANGEMANN WITHDRAWS FROM THE  
LAND LEVEL AND CONCENTRATES MORE ON EUROPEAN POLITICS.  
GENSCHER'S ATTACK ON THE SPD IN GENERAL AND ON BADEN-WUERT-  
TEMBERG SPD CHAIRMAN ERHARD EPPLER CAME AS SOMETHING OF A  
SURPRISE. IF NOTHING ELSE, IT TARNISHED GENSCHER'S LOCAL PUB-  
LIC IMAGE AS A MAN A BIT ABOVE THE BATTLE SINCE HIS BLAST  
AGAINST EPPLER WAS CONSIDERED BY MANY LOCAL OBSERVERS TO BE  
DANGEROUSLY CLOSE TO BELOW THE BELT. GENSCHER, HOWEVER,  
MAY HAVE FELT THAT HE WAS ON PRETTY SAFE GROUNDS SINCE IT IS  
NO SECRET THAT THERE IS LITTLE LOVE LOST BETWEEN CHANCELLOR  
SCHMIDT AND EPPLER. IT IS ALSO NOT INCONCEIVABLE THAT GENSCHER  
ATTACKED EPPLER AT SCHMIDT'S URGING OR AT LEAST WITH HIS  
BLESSING SINCE EPPLER HAS BEEN GETTING CONSIDERABLE PRESS  
PLAY LATELY AS A CRITIC OF SCHMIDT. CONTRARY TO ALL OF HIS  
PREVIOUS THREE KINGS APPEARANCES, GENSCHER DID NOT HAVE TO  
CONTEND WITH CATCALLS AND INTERRUPTIONS DURING HIS SPEECH,  
WHICH MAY BE MUTE COMMENTARY ON THE FDP'S CURRENT PUBLIC  
STANDING IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG.  
JENKINS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STUTTG00036  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770014-0930, D770007-0588  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STUTTGART  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
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**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
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**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3641044  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GENSCHER TAKES ON SPD AT BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG EPIPHANY MEETING  
**TAGS:** PINT, GE, (GENSCHER, HANS-DIETRICH), (DURIEUX, JEAN)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkvgwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/338430dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009